

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 750

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Fred Jones, Jr., of
Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly take pleasure in recognizing those entrepreneurs who operate at the confluence of ingenuity and conscientiousness, embarking on ventures that are both lucrative and beneficial to local communities; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Fred Jones, Jr., a native Memphian who has ascended the ranks of success, all the while contributing to his community and improving the lives of his fellow citizens in innumerable ways; and

WHEREAS, raised in the Cleaborn Homes housing community, Mr. Jones is a distinctly Memphis success story; he worked during the day and went to school at night to earn his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from the University of Memphis, graduating in 1971; and

WHEREAS, he began his career in entertainment as a road manager for Isaac Hayes; he then branched out on his own and began booking acts for Memphis concert halls, legendary artists such as Lou Rawls, Ray Charles, B.B. King, Tina Turner, and Tyler Perry; and

WHEREAS, eager to make an even bigger impact in his community, Fred Jones created Summitt Management Corporation, an event management and marketing company, through which he began his most rewarding endeavor, the Southern Heritage Classic; and

WHEREAS, launched in 1990, the Southern Heritage Classic is an annual rivalry football game featuring Tennessee State University and Jackson State University; the grudge match attracts fans from across the country, averaging an attendance of 40,000 each year since its inception, and enjoys the sponsorship of FedEx, Allstate Insurance, AutoZone, Nike,

MillerCoors, Carrier Corporation, and the Governor's Highway Safety Office, with the list of sponsors continuing to grow every year; and

WHEREAS, more than simply an opportunity for an athletic showdown, the weekend of the event is known as the Southern Heritage Classic Cultural Celebration, during which attendees enjoy a parade, a fashion show, concerts, a golf tournament, tailgate parties, a coaches' luncheon, a battle of the bands, and more; and

WHEREAS, since the event began airing on FOX Sports South, the Southern Heritage Classic has grown and reached audiences far beyond Memphis; however, though it is a large-scale, citywide event, it still retains the small-town feel that is characteristic of events held in the Memphis area; and

WHEREAS, Fred Jones's greatest pleasure during the Southern Heritage Cultural Celebration is getting to hand checks to Tennessee State University and Jackson State University, knowing that the money will support these deserving schools; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Mr. Jones was named Entrepreneur of the Year in 2005 by the National Alliance of Market Developers; in 2010, he was added to the Beale Street Brass Note Walk of Fame, and in 2012, he received the Community Hero award from the Memphis Grizzlies, the National Basketball Association franchise he helped bring to the Bluff City in 2001; and

WHEREAS, Fred Jones has also been honored with a key to the city of Memphis from Mayor Jim Strickland, the President's Award from Carnival Memphis, the Legacy Award from *The New Tri-State Defender*, the Music Business Award from the W.C. Handy Heritage Awards, and the Arthur S. Holman Lifetime Achievement Award from the University of Memphis and was named a Memphis Hero by The Orpheum Theatre and inducted into the Black Business Directory's African-American Hall of Fame, to name but a few of his duly earned accolades; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Jones is one of the premier entrepreneurs of this State, and it is fitting that he be honored; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Fred Jones, Jr., for his myriad accomplishments and many years of meritorious service to the people of Memphis and this State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.